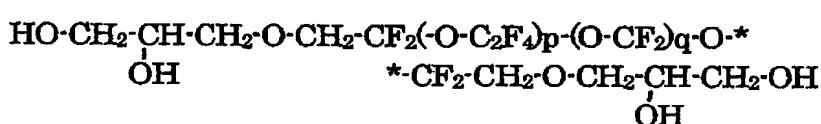


## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

## **LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (original) A method for producing a lubricant used to form a lubricating layer on a magnetic disk, the method comprising a step of degassing a crude lubricant containing at least one perfluoropolyether and a step of purifying the resulting crude lubricant.
  2. (original) A method for producing a lubricant used to form a lubricating layer on a magnetic disk, the method comprising a step of purifying a liquid crude lubricant containing at least one perfluoropolyether by vaporizing the crude lubricant and then liquefying the vapor of the perfluoropolyether within a distance less than the mean free path of molecules of the perfluoropolyether.
  3. (currently amended) The method according to ~~Claim 1 or 2~~ Claim 1, wherein the purifying step is performed under vacuum conditions.
  4. (currently amended) The method according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 3~~ Claim 1, wherein the lubricant contains at least one compound represented by the following formula:



{wherein p and q represent natural numbers}.

5. (currently amended) A lubricant, produced by the method according to any one of

~~Claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 1, having a weight-average molecular weight of 4000 to 8000 and a molecular weight distribution of 1 to 1.3.

6. (original) The lubricant according to Claim 5, wherein the content of the perfluoropolyether in the lubricant is greater than 85%, when the content is measured by nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy.

7. (currently amended) A magnetic disk comprising at least a magnetic layer, a protective layer, and a lubricating layer on a substrate, wherein the lubricating layer is formed by applying ~~the~~ a lubricant produced on the protective layer by the method according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 1 or by applying ~~the~~ a lubricant, produced by the method according to Claim 1, having a weight-average molecular weight of 4000 to 8000 and a molecular weight distribution of 1 to 1.3 ~~according to Claim 5 or 6~~.

8. (original) The magnetic disk according to Claim 7, wherein the magnetic disk is installed in a load/unload-type magnetic disk drive.

9. (currently amended) A method for manufacturing a magnetic disk, comprising a step of forming a magnetic layer, a carbonaceous protective layer, and a lubricating layer on a substrate in that order, wherein the carbonaceous protective layer is formed by a plasma-enhanced CVD method and the lubricating layer is formed using ~~the~~ a lubricant produced by the method according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 1 or ~~the~~ a lubricant, produced by the method according to Claim 1, having a weight-average molecular weight of 4000 to 8000 and a molecular weight distribution of 1 to 1.3 ~~according to Claim 5 or 6~~.

10. (original) The process according to Claim 9, wherein the magnetic disk is installed in a load/unload-type magnetic disk drive.

11. (original) A lubricant, used to form a lubricating layer on a magnetic disk,

containing a perfluoropolyether and having a molecular weight distribution of 1 to 1.3 or less.

12. (original) The lubricant according to Claim 11, wherein the weight-average molecular weight thereof is 4000 to 8000.

13. (currently amended) The lubricant according to ~~Claim 11 or 12~~ Claim 11, further containing a compound that has a perfluoropolyether chain and a hydroxyl group bonded thereto.

14. (currently amended) A magnetic disk comprising a lubricating layer formed on a surface by the use of ~~the~~a lubricant produced by the method according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 4~~Claim 1 or ~~a~~the lubricant, produced by the method according to Claim 1, having a weight-average molecular weight of 4000 to 8000 and a molecular weight distribution of 1 to 1.3 ~~according to Claim 5 or 6 or the~~a lubricant, used to form a lubricating layer on a magnetic disk, containing a perfluoropolyether and having a molecular weight distribution of 1 to 1.3 ~~according to any one of Claim 11 to 13~~.

15. (original) The magnetic disk according to Claim 14, wherein the magnetic disk is installed in a magnetic disk drive including a magnetic head including a negative pressure slider.